
Introduced by Senator Poochigian

February 22, 2005

An act to amend Section 803 of, and to amend and renumber Section 821 and 822 of the Food and Agricultural Code, relating to agriculture.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 859, as introduced, Poochigian. Agricultural policy.

Existing law, the Thurman Agricultural Policy Act, provides that an agricultural policy should guide decisionmaking by the Legislature so that the needs of the agricultural industry can be considered for the benefit of the residents of this state, and identifies the major principles of the state's agricultural policy. However, existing law also provides that California does not presently have a formal agricultural policy.

This bill would recast these provisions. This bill would provide that California must maintain a formal agricultural policy. This bill would also add ensuring food safety, sustaining rural agricultural infrastructure, and protecting California from biological pollution as major principles of the state's agricultural policy.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 803 of the Food and Agricultural Code
- 2 is amended to read:
- 3 803. The Legislature further finds and declares that;
- 4 ~~regardless of the findings in Section 802, this state does not~~
- 5 ~~presently have~~ *California must maintain* a formal agricultural
- 6 policy. That policy should guide decisionmaking by the

1 Legislature so that the needs of the agricultural industry can be
2 considered for the benefit of the residents of this state, each of
3 whom is directly and indirectly affected by California
4 agriculture.

5 SEC. 2. Section 821 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
6 amended and renumbered to read:

7 ~~821.~~

8 804. As part of promoting and protecting the agricultural
9 industry of the state and for the protection of public health,
10 safety, and welfare, the Legislature shall provide for a continuing
11 sound and healthy agriculture in California and shall encourage a
12 productive and profitable agriculture. Major principles of the
13 state's agricultural policy shall be all of the following:

14 (a) To increase the sale of crops and livestock products
15 produced by farmers, ranchers, and processors of food and fiber
16 in this state.

17 (b) To enhance the potential for domestic and international
18 marketing of California agricultural products through fostering
19 the creation of value additions to commodities and the
20 development of new consumer products.

21 (c) To sustain the long-term productivity of the state's farms
22 by conserving and protecting the soil, water, and air, which are
23 agriculture's basic resources.

24 (d) *To ensure food safety through consumer education and the*
25 *encouragement of scientifically based agricultural production,*
26 *processing, transportation, and storage practices.*

27 (e) *To sustain rural economic and infrastructure development*
28 *by enhancing, protecting, and encouraging the production and*
29 *alternative uses of agricultural products and by-products.*

30 (f) *To protect California from biological pollution, including*
31 *plant and animal pests and diseases that have devastating*
32 *impacts on California's people, commerce, and environment.*

33 (g) To maximize the ability of farmers, ranchers, and
34 processors to learn about and adopt practices that will best enable
35 them to achieve the policies stated in this section.

36 SEC. 3. Section 822 of the Food and Agricultural Code is
37 amended and renumbered to read:

38 ~~822.~~

1 805. The Legislature shall review actions taken in the
2 implementation and furtherance of the state agricultural policy
3 for their impact on the following factors:

- 4 (a) Productive agricultural land.
- 5 (b) Agricultural water supplies.
- 6 (c) Agricultural energy resources, including, but not limited to,
7 energy rates and rate structures.
- 8 (d) Pest control, exclusion, detection, and eradication
9 activities.
- 10 (e) Agricultural labor.
- 11 (f) Agricultural production tools, including, but not limited to,
12 fertilizers and implements of husbandry.
- 13 (g) Marketing agricultural products in—~~the~~ domestic and
14 foreign markets.
- 15 (h) Agricultural research, education, and agricultural extension
16 programs.
- 17 (i) Agricultural transportation and distribution systems.
- 18 (j) Agricultural financing.
- 19 (k) Family owned farms.
- 20 (l) Activities of county agricultural commissioners.
- 21 (m) Agricultural exhibits at state-supported fairs.
- 22 (n) Recycling agricultural byproducts.
- 23 (o) Applied new technologies including, but not limited to,
24 new food product and value-added product development.